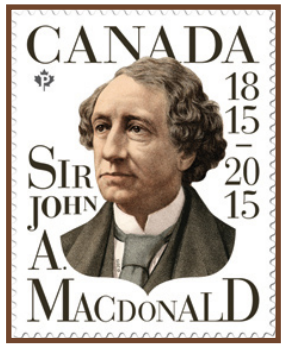
Canada Honors Nation Builder Macdonald

On January 11—the 200th anniversary of his birth—Canada Post issued a stamp to honor Sir John A. Macdonald, the country's first prime minister. As described by Canada Post, "the stamp mixes a traditional photo with modern design to create a fresh look at a subject who has appeared on stamps many times over the past 100 years."



A nation builder whose achievements shaped Canada, Macdonald expanded the country by including the provinces of Manitoba, British Columbia and Prince Edward Island, as well as securing land that became today's Northwest Territories and Nunavut. From building a transcontinental railway, founding the forerunner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and creating the country's first national park, to adopting British spelling rather than American, Macdonald had an enormous legacy.

His death in office in 1891 was marked by tributes from political allies and opponents alike. Thousands of people paid their respects when he lay in state in Parliament, and mourners lined the tracks as a train carried him to his resting place in his hometown of Kingston, Ontario.

Macdonald took a leading role during the Charlottetown and Québec conferences that laid the foundation for Confederation and the creation of Canada in 1867. Enormously popular, he won six out of seven post-Confederation elections. This made him prime minister for 19 of Canada's first 24 years and the second-longest serving prime minister in Canadian history.

"Sir John A. Macdonald not only led negotiations that created our country, but he also guided a growing and maturing Canada," said Lisa Raitt, Minister of Transport, responsible for Canada Post Corporation. "On the 200th anniversary of his birth, we remember that enduring legacy."

"Our stamps have captured the story of Canada ever since Confederation and today we celebrate one of its key architects," said Deepak Chopra, President and CEO of Canada Post. "Two hundred years after his birth, Sir John A. Macdonald remains a towering figure and this stamp celebrates his legacy."

The stamp was designed by Louis Gagnon at Paprika in Montréal and printed by the Canadian Bank Note Company with lithography in five colors. It was issued in booklets of 10.

For information on this and other Canada new issues and a link to the Canada Post website, please go to http://www.stampnewsnow.com/canadaPostnewissues.html.